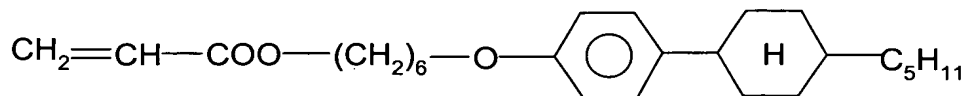


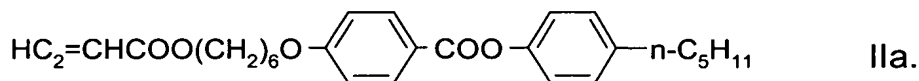
REMARKS

The only issue outstanding in the office action mailed January 11, 2006, is the single rejection of claim 20, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The examiner is thanked for indicating allowance of claims 1-9 and 22-26, and the withdrawal of all previous issues of record. Reconsideration of the single remaining issue is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Parri et al. (US 5,518,652; 5,720,900 or 6,013,197; and GB 2,289,445). Each of these documents is in the same family, and all are commonly assigned with the present application. The office action relies, in this rejection, on the compound which is disclosed, for example, as the seventh structure at column 25 in the '652 patent. This structure is as follows:



It is thus believed that there may be some misunderstanding in the present rejection, inasmuch as the compound recited in claim 20 as the following structure:



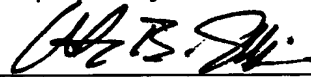
it is evident that the ring adjacent to the alkyl wing group in claim 20 is unsaturated, unlike the structure disclosed in the references. In fact, it is believed that the office action may be confused with the unsaturated structure of formula Ia, recited in claim

21. However, it is noted that claim 21 is dependent upon claim 20, and thus requires a compound of formula IIa as well. As a result, it is submitted that the cited references failed to anticipate the present claims, and withdrawal of rejection and allowance of all claims is thus respectfully requested.

Should the examiner have questions or comments, he is cordially invited to telephone undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-2779

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